



40th AVENUE EXTENSION

PRESENTATION NOTES

PUBLIC MEETING NO. 3

February 23, 2009

MEETING NOTES

LOCATION: Wendler Middle School

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 38 people

MATERIALS: PowerPoint Presentation, Project Graphics, and Refreshments

Brad Melocik (DOWL HKM) opened the meeting by giving a brief overview of the project and presenting the 95 percent design plans. He discussed the design aspects, what has changed, and the landscaping features that will be incorporated into the project during the PowerPoint presentation.

Below is a summary of some of the questions and comments stated during the presentation. Staff responses are in blue italics.

- How much of Folker Hill will be removed?

Brad stated that the top of the hill and trees would be removed regardless of the option chosen (retaining wall on each side vs. retaining wall on the south side). A temporary construction easement (TCE) would be obtained from Trust Land Office (TLO) and the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to slope the hill. The land would then be given back to TLO and DNR. Steve Noble (DOWL HKM) stated that the slope of the hill is a 3:1 slope.

- Over 40 people signed a petition to state that they were not in favor of opening Wright Street up to 40th Avenue. Cutting through Wright Street makes no sense.

Steve explained that in order to alleviate traffic volumes on 42nd Avenue, which is not built to handle the traffic volumes it does now, Wright Street, Folker Street, and Laurel Street will all need to be opened up to 40th Avenue. 40th Avenue from Piper Street to Lake Otis Parkway is meant to be a collector road, and opening these streets allows access.

- Is this a high priority project?

Steve stated that this project came out of the Tudor Area Traffic Calming Study and was listed as the highest priority project resulting from that study.

- What would the impacts be if Wright Street did not connect to 40th Avenue?

Steve stated that there would be greater traffic volumes on Folker Street and Piper Street.

- The fencing options that you are proposing for residents will block the sunlight from our yards and will kill our gardens.

Steve explained that fences will be placed where they serve a separation purpose and are not just being placed for aesthetic reasons. Any existing fencing affected by the project will also be replaced. The trail will be on the north side of the road to minimize the effect of shadowing on the pedestrian walkways.

- Pedestrian use in the roundabout is going to be non-existent during the winter because of snow removal. No one shovels their sidewalks, so who is going to shovel the area in between the streets in the roundabout.
- 40th Avenue is just going to become a mini-Tudor Road. It will become backed up and congested.
- The proposed light at 40th Avenue and Lake Otis Parkway is only going to cause more traffic build-up on Lake Otis Parkway.

Steve explained that the light will help alleviate traffic build-up on Lake Otis Parkway during peak traffic times by breaking up the flow of traffic. It will also create gaps for vehicles to turn onto Lake Otis Parkway. The projected queue lengths do not extend into the adjacent signals.

- Where is the funding coming from?

John Smith (MOA) stated that the funding will be coming from the Municipal Bond that has already passed as well as a State Grant.

- There was a concern brought up about residents living between Piper Street and Dale Street because they are on wells. Many are concerned about the road construction in this area and worried about having to replace the wells.
- Will the project be occurring in two phases?

The project may occur in two phases. It is likely that excavation will take place this summer (2009), and the bulk of the roadway construction will take place in the 2010 construction season.

- What portion of 40th Avenue would they begin with? The residential area or the roadway closest to Lake Otis Parkway?

Steve explained that this is largely up to the contractor.

- Where will the overburden from the hill go?

Steve stated that this is also up to the contractor.

- Will the excavation from the hill be used in the construction of a road elsewhere?

Steve stated no, they would not likely be using the excavation from the hill for a different road project.

Steve and Brad thanked everyone for their comments. They encouraged people to write down their comments and concerns, put them in the comment box and continue to ask either one of them any questions after the meeting.